

The Native American Political Leadership Program, NAPLP, provides Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian college students the opportunity to spend a semester living, working, and studying in Washington, DC. The promising young leaders who participate in this invaluable program gain rich academic, professional, and life experiences in part through congressional internships on Capitol Hill, including the Senate. Through one-of-a-kind programs, such as NAPLP, Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students learn about American Government and the public policy process with an emphasis on Federal Indian policy, which is important to protecting tribal sovereignty.

This year, the George Washington University NAPLP hosted their first INSPIRE Pre-College summer session, which offered a similar educational opportunity to Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian junior and senior high school students. Exemplary high school students traveled to Washington, DC, to participate in the program's intensive 3-week curriculum that motivates Native teens to become more active in the political process and teaches Native youth about the Federal trust relationship between Indian tribes and the Federal Government. I am pleased that NAPLP organizers were able to offer the first-ever INSPIRE Pre-College program for Native high school students this summer.

Hailee Brown of the Navajo Nation; Robert Charles of the Native Village of Koyuk; Lisa Chavez of the Ak-Chin Indian Community; Delilah Coleman of the Navajo Nation; Lacayah Engebretson, Tlingit and Athabaskan; Ethan Dan, Yupik; Jessica Petty of the Smith River Rancheria of the Tolowa Indian Tribe; Devin Jensen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; Warren Mountain of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians; Kara Roanhorse of the Navajo Nation; Christie Wildcat of the Northern Arapaho Tribe were among the first high school students to participate in the INSPIRE Pre-College Summer Program.

During my time in Congress, I have worked hard to ensure that the Senate staff and workforce better reflect the diversity of our great Nation. I am proud that the Senate Democratic Diversity Initiative maintains a strong partnership with the NAPLP, and I hope that the experiences gained while participating in these important programs will continue to provide these outstanding students with profound knowledge, academic success, and a pathway to careers in government both on and off of Capitol Hill. I commend the hard work and dedication of the NAPLP and the INSPIRE Program organizers as well as the many young scholars. I look forward to welcoming more Native leaders to the INSPIRE Pre-College program and the NAPLP program in the future.

REMEMBERING DAVID GORDON HARMON

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, today I rise to report some sad news to my Senate colleagues. David Gordon Harmon—a Kentuckian and U.S. Air Force veteran—passed away last week at the age of 78.

David was born on April 28, 1936, to William Thomas and Sarah Boyd Harmon in Dunbar, KY. When he was only 17, he left school to serve his country in the Air Force. After completing basic training, David served on Active Duty for 4 years, which included 18 months in the Philippine Islands and service in the Korean war.

Following his service in the Air Force, David returned home to take over the family business, Harmon Construction, from his father, which he ran until he passed down the responsibility to his three sons in 1989.

Outside of his business, David was an active member of the Manchester Christian Church, served as commander of the DAV Chapter 137 in Manchester, and played a leading role in the construction of the Clay County Veterans Memorial. He is a Kentucky Colonel, and was named Clay County's Man of the Year in 2013.

David is survived by his three sons, as well as his daughter and his loving wife Elsie Collins Harmon whom he married in 1958.

David served his country with honor, and was a devoted member of his family, church, and community. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in paying tribute to the life of David Gordon Harmon.

Rominger Funeral Home recently published an obituary for Mr. Harmon. I ask unanimous consent that the obituary be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

[From romingerfuneralhome.com, July 25, 2014]

MR. DAVID GORDON HARMON

Mr. David Gordon Harmon, age 78, went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, at the Manchester Memorial Hospital. He was born on Tuesday, April 28, 1936, in Dunmore, Kentucky, to the union of William Thomas and Sarah Boyd Harmon. He was owner of Harmon Construction, a member of the Manchester Christian Church, a member of Oneida Masonic Lodge #736, a Veteran of the United States Air Force where he served in the Korean War, and was a member of the local DAV chapter for over 25 years where he served as commander for over 18 years. He was also selected as Clay County's Man of the Year in 2013.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife: Elsie Collins Harmon, whom he united with in marriage on Saturday, July 12, 1958. To this union four children were born: Alice Pearl Harmon, Tommy Lynn Harmon and his wife Lillie Mae, Michael Harmon and his wife Margie, and Lester Harmon and his wife Sandy. He is survived by his grandchildren: Joshua Lyndon Jones, Naketa Harmon, David G. Harmon II, Rachyl Lynn Harmon, and his great-grandchild Haley Alexis Jones. Also surviving are his sisters: Bessie Whitehead and Bonnie Kathryn Bowling.

He is preceded in death by his parents: William Thomas and Sarah Harmon, and these brothers and sisters: William T. Harmon II, John Green Harmon, James Harmon, Tommy Joe Harmon, Ernestine Murphy, and Cleo Howard.

Funeral Services for Mr. David Gordon Harmon will be conducted on Saturday, July 26, 2014 at 1 p.m. at the Rominger Funeral Home Chapel. Rev. Brad Stevens and Judge Oscar Gayle House will be officiating. Burial will follow in the Manchester Memorial Gardens with full military honors.

Pallbearers will be: Terry Davidson, Jason Harris, Jimmy Jr. Smith, Rodney Wagers, Bill Ed White, Clayton Russell Howard, Lee Tyler Brown, and Justin Gay.

Visitation will be held on Friday evening starting at 6 p.m. at the Rominger Funeral Home Chapel. A Masonic service will begin at 8 p.m. on Friday evening.

TRIBUTE TO MIGUEL RIVAS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to a proud member of the U.S. Marine Corps, Miguel Rivas. Rivas hails from Magoffin County, KY, and served his country with honor in two tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Only 18 years old, and having just graduated from Magoffin County High School, Rivas joined the Marine Corps in 2004. He did so out of a sense of duty to the country as well as to obtain an education and employment.

In January of 2006, he was deployed to Camp Fallujah, Iraq with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. During this tour he worked on administrative support duties in addition to holding long, 16-hour shifts on tower duty.

Rivas was deployed on a second tour in November of 2012, this time in Kabul, Afghanistan, where he was a part of the "drive team" that is responsible for transporting civilians, military employees and high-ranking officials between bases.

Rivas served his country honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan. For his service, he is well deserving of our praise here in the Senate.

Therefore, I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in honoring Miguel Rivas.

The Salyersville Independent recently published an article detailing Rivas' service in Iraq and Afghanistan. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Salyersville Independent, July 3, 2014]

RIVAS SERVES TWO TOURS TO THE MIDDLE EAST

(By Heather Oney)

Miguel A. Rivas, a graduate of Magoffin County High School, joined the United States Marine Corps in May 2004 at the age of 18, wanting to fight for America's freedom, as well as secure an education and employment. Rivas said he also joined because he wanted to travel, which the Marines have allowed him to do, serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as all over the U.S.

On the same day he enlisted, Rivas left for recruit training in Parris Island, South Carolina, and in July went to a school of infantry

in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for basic training.

"We dug man holes and stayed in them for 24 hours," Rivas remembers. "This was one of my favorite parts of being a Marine."

In September 2004 he was sent to Camp Johnson, North Carolina, for Personal Administration School to learn basic administration procedures of the Marines. Then in November the same year he went to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, in Camp Pendleton, California, where Rivas worked on a daily basis in administration.

Rivas was deployed to Camp Fallujah, Iraq, in January 2006 with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group. While there, he held administrative support duties, as well as tower duty, where they would stand for 16-hour shifts in the tower, watching to make sure no one entered the base from their positions. He worked at a gate on the base, scanning all the eyes of the Local Nationals that would enter the base to work.

"The living conditions were not so bad," Rivas said. "We had hard-standing buildings to sleep in at night and then we had trailers that had showers and bathrooms. We had a chow facility to eat so we didn't have to eat the MRE's unless we were out on patrols for a few days. So, overall, the living conditions were okay."

After returning from Iraq, he held multiple administrative and supervisory positions at Camp Pendleton, California, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Yuma, Arizona.

In November 2012, Rivas was deployed for his second tour, this time sent to Kabul, Afghanistan, with the United States Forces Afghanistan, working with the Navy and Air Force to make sure every servicemember received their awards before departing to the U.S.

Also in Afghanistan, Rivas was on the drive team, responsible for safely transporting civilian military employees, servicemembers and high-ranking officers around to different bases in Afghanistan.

Living in a five-story building that included everything inside, such as a gym, their rooms (with a restroom in each one), and Wi-Fi connections, Rivas said this was the best living conditions he had ever had.

Rivas is married to Elizabeth Chaves Rivas and they have four kids, Lizette Marie Arizmendi, Ruben Fernando Arizmendi, Antonio Miguel Rivas and Kaylani Aziana Rivas.

"I want everyone to know she is the reason that I had a long successful Marine Corps career," Rivas said. "My kids are my life and the greatest joy in the world is being a father."

TRIBUTE TO JAMES P. SIMONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. Army veteran and former CPT James P. Simons, one of our Nation's and the Commonwealth of Kentucky's brave heroes from the Vietnam war.

From June 1966 to June 1967, Mr. Simons served as a lieutenant in Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, Airmobile, in South Vietnam. During the first 9½ months of his deployment, then-Lieutenant Simons flew unarmed OH-13 helicopters as a scout pilot, flying deep into enemy territory, above the jungle, to search for insurgents below. Lieutenant Simons would radio back enemy locations to his post, and American forces would move in.

Lieutenant Simons logged an incredible 1,430 flight hours during the first 9½ months of his deployment. He often flew four and five missions per day, landing every few hours to refuel and returning to the air a short time later. Ten- and 12-hour days spent flying in enemy territory were not uncommon. During a period in which scout pilots were scarce, Lieutenant Simons remarkably flew missions on 27 consecutive days.

Captain Simons has received numerous medals for his heroism and service during the Vietnam war. They include: the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and two Air Medals—a rarity—which were needed to appropriately represent the 625 combat missions Lieutenant Simons flew in Vietnam. In addition to these medals, former Captain Simons has received three Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Distinguished Service Cross.

Mr. Simons received Purple Hearts for each of the combat wounds he sustained; he was injured twice when the helicopters he was piloting were shot down by enemy fire. The third injury occurred when the enemy launched a nighttime mortar attack and a mortar exploded in Lieutenant Simons' tent. Following the attack, Lieutenant Simons was transported to a field hospital where he had 26 pieces of shrapnel removed. After sustaining his third combat injury, Lieutenant Simons was no longer permitted to fly due to the number of times he had been wounded. He spent the remaining 10 weeks of his tour in Vietnam serving our military and our country in other capacities.

Mr. Simons received the prestigious Distinguished Flying Cross due to his valiant action on November 24, 1966, during a search-and-destroy mission near Bong Son, Vietnam. Lieutenant Simons was flying ahead of U.S. ground forces to locate areas concentrated with enemies when he took on machine gun fire. In the face of this attack, Lieutenant Simons conducted reconnaissance of the area to assist with the ground mission. As he took on heavy enemy fire his helicopter eventually was shot down. Lieutenant Simons fortunately was not wounded, and he bravely assisted an injured crewmember in seeking cover before the two were evacuated.

Less than 1 month later, on December 17, 1966, Lieutenant Simons carried out acts of bravery for which he ultimately was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the military's second-highest decoration for a member of the U.S. Army. He received this award for his "extraordinary heroism" during yet another ground search-and-destroy mission near Bong Son, Vietnam.

Lieutenant Simons was leading a helicopter scout group screening ahead for U.S. forces on the ground. During heavy exchanges of ground fire, Lieutenant Simons flew low and in harm's way to mark enemy positions with

smoke grenades. As the battle continued, Lieutenant Simons saw that U.S. troops below him had become stranded. In response, he dropped grenades on enemy bunkers and continued to fly low to attract enemy fire so his fellow American servicemembers could be rescued. Lieutenant Simons took a number of actions at tremendous personal risk, and his heroism and selflessness ultimately saved the lives of three of his fellow comrades.

Former Captain Simons' courageous military service on behalf of the United States during the Vietnam war deserves the recognition of this body. Thus, I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in honoring Mr. James P. Simons today.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY OLKEWICZ

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, I want to talk about the worst kept secret in the Senate. Nancy Olkewicz is really great at her job. I have depended on her many times as have many others in this Chamber. She has had many roles in the Senate, and she has been spectacular with all of them. She has served under chairmen like the late Senator Robert C. Byrd, Senator HARRY REID, and me. Over the years, she has been given many challenging assignments, and she has never failed to deliver. It is with great pride and some sadness that Nancy has announced her plans to leave the Senate Sergeant at Arms and retire from the Senate this summer. We celebrate her 36 years with us. She will be very much missed.

Many people in Washington see their professions as just jobs. For Nancy, her work has meant much more than that. The agencies she helped fund and the people she has worked with are her second family. She has been working in the Senate since she was 19 and an aide to Senator Paul Sarbanes. Nancy practically grew up in the Senate. Her countless friends and the respect she has earned from both sides of the aisle are a testament to her accomplishments and her demeanor.

If you want to see a monument to Nancy's work here, look no further than the Senate rain garden. This innovation has been capturing and filtering runoff from parking lots to reduce storm water flooding and keep pollutants from entering local streams and rivers for 10 years now. This remarkable project could not have happened without Nancy's work for the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee. Thanks to her tenacity and pleasant—but stern—oversight, the Senate rain garden was completed on time and under budget. Today, the Senate rain garden stands as a constant reminder of sustainability and stewardship every day for the visitors and staffers on Capitol Hill.

I could go on much longer talking about Nancy. She is accomplished, humble, and kind. Many of us in the